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ENERGY = MC^2 ...THE MICHIGAN COMPUTER CONSORTIUM MAGAZINE

ISSN: 0740-2759

SEPTEMBER 1985



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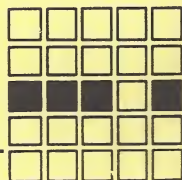
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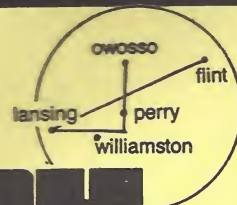
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AUGUST 1985
 SU MO TU WE TH FR SA
 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

CONSORTIUM CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1985

OCTOBER 1985
 SU MO TU WE TH FR SA
 1 2 3 4 5
 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 27 28 29 30 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2	3 LAMALUG LACC	4 M36 EXEC	5 OMARC	6 CCUG
8		9 TI USERS GROUP	10 HEATH SIG	11	12	13 DRUG
15 ENERGY DEADLINE	16 Rosh Hashana EPSON USERS	17 CMTUG	18	19	20 CHAOS APPLE LUG	21
22	23 UPCO (IBM PC)	24 Yom Kippur	25 CP/M SIG M36	26	27	28
29	30					

LANSING AREA COMPUTER CLUBS

Apple LUG (Lansing Users Group)
 Meets: Third Saturday, 9:30 A.M.
 102 South Kedzie Hall, MSU, East Lansing
 Contact: P.O. Box 27144, Lansing, MI 48902

CCUG (Greater Lansing Color Computer Users Group) (MC2)
 Meets: First Saturday, 1:00 P.M.
 East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott, E.L.
 Contact: P.O. Box 14114, Lansing, MI 48901
 Terry Feichtenbiner 371-1594

CHAOS (Capitol Hill Atari Owners Society) (MC2)
 Meets: Third Saturday 10:00 AM
 Lansing Public Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing
 Contact: PO Box 16132, Lansing, MI 48901
 Leo Sell (president) 393-7792

OMARC (Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club)
 Meets: 1st Friday, 8:00 pm
 American Red Cross Bldg.
 1800 E. Grand River, Lansing
 Contact: Ken Noble W8JYB 372-0994

Comp Klub of Lansing (TI Users Group)
 Meets: 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm
 River Front Community Bldg 501 N Cedar St, Lansing
 Contact: John Hayes 882-7860; Eugene Loyd 394-1494

The Commodore Club (of St. Johns)
 Meets: Every Tuesday night, 7-10 pm
 Contact: David Smallidon 689-5963, evenings

DECUS GLLUG (DEC Users Greater Lansing Local Users Group)
 Meets: Approximately every 2 months at a local DEC user
 Contact: C. M. Watson (secretary) 483-1111 (days)

DRUG (DEC Rainbow Users Group)
 Meets: 2nd Saturday, 11:00 am
 Institute for Family & Child Study
 Home Management House #2, MSU (next to Berkey)
 Contact: Jeffrey Weihi 353-3717 (days) 349-6967 (evenings)

Epson Users Group
 Meets: Third Monday, 7:00 pm
 Library of Michigan, 735 E. Michigan, Lansing
 Contact: Ted Bozarth 332-3710 (after 8 PM)

LACC (Lansing Area Commodore Club)
 Meets: First Wednesday, 7:00 PM
 All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbott, E.L.
 Contact: PO Box 1065, East Lansing, MI 48823
 Jae Walker (president) 351-7061

LAMALUG (Lansing Area Mac and Lisa User Group)
 Meets: First week of month; different day each month
 Scofes Restaurant, 2609 S. Cedar, Lansing
 Contact: Dick McCarrick (at Computer Consignments, 394-4408)
 Charles Winters 787-5731; Mark Rosenberg 351-0635

M36 (Mid-Michigan Microcomputer Group) (MC2)
 Meets: Third Thursday (usually), 7:30 PM
 East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott, E.L.
 Contact: PO Box 1302, East Lansing, MI 48823
 Warren Wolfe (president) 337-7672
 Executive Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 PM
 Beggar's Banquet, 218 Abbott, East Lansing

M36 CMTUG (Central Mich. TRS-80 Users Group) SIG (MC2)
 Meets: Third Tuesday, 7:30 PM
 Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster, Lansing
 Contact: Lee Hodges 669-3258

M36 CP/M SIG (MC2)
 Meets: Last Thursday, 7:30 PM
 Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster, Lansing
 Contact: Greg Martin 484-5850

M36 Heath/Zenith SIG (MC2)
 Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 pm
 All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbott, E.L.
 Contact: Tom Trana, PO Box 829, East Lansing MI 48823

M36 Osborne SIG (MC2)
 Meets: Last Saturday, 1:00 pm
 (In a member's home; call for directions.)
 Contact: Larry Tirone 484-3921

MSU MUG (MSU & Capitol Area Macintosh Users Group)
 Meets: During MSU school year - not again until Fall
 Contact: John Sykes 332-6720

U.P.C.O. (Users' Personal Computer Organization--IBM PC group) (MC2)
 Meets: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 PM
 Agricultural Engineering Bldg., MSU
 Contact: Skip Osterhus 321-3425

Clubs designated (MC2) are members of the Michigan Computer Consortium.

This listing is as accurate as the information we receive. To list an event or update information, contact Joe Werner at 337-7415 (evenings), or on the local BBSs BabbieNet or LSJ Access, or via MCI Mail (JWERNER).

ABOUT ENERGY

ENERGY (ISSN 0740-2759) is published monthly by the Michigan Computer Consortium, Inc., P.O. Box 1302, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

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Subscriptions to ENERGY are provided as a benefit of membership in one of the clubs constituting the Consortium. Subscriptions are not otherwise sold. For information about joining one of the clubs in the Consortium, write the club at the address above.

ABOUT THE MICHIGAN COMPUTER CONSORTIUM

The Michigan Computer Consortium (MC2) was formed in 1983 to sponsor joint activities involving member computer clubs. Current members of MC2 are:

CCUG Greater Lansing Color Computer Users Group
CHAOS Capitol Hill Atari Owners Society
M3G Mid-Michigan Microcomputer Group
UPCO Users' Personal Computer Owners

Information about each of these clubs is published elsewhere in ENERGY.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dennis Cullinan	(CMTIG)	372-6590
Terry Feichtenbinder	(CCUG)	371-1594
Mike Aldrich	(CHAOS)	394-2412
Joe Werner	(M3G)	337-7415
Skip Osterhus	(UPCO)	321-3425
Marvin Goldstein	(Treasurer)	332-5471

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Persons wishing to submit articles are encouraged to do so. Articles may be submitted in camera-ready form (3.5 inch columns, 16 characters per inch, 8 lines per inch), or on disk. Contact any Editorial Board member. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month preceding publication.



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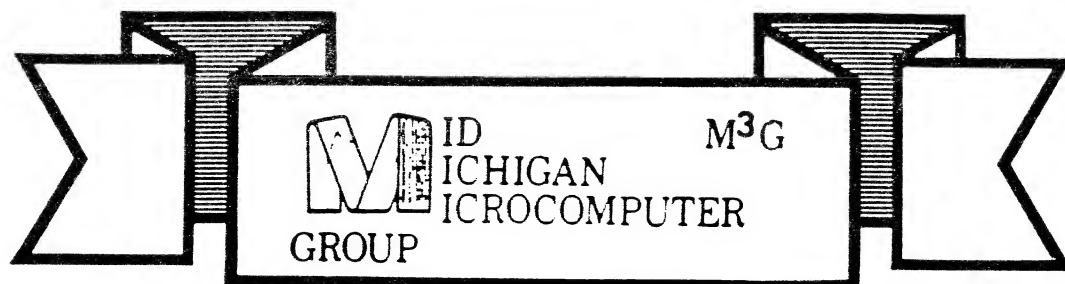


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If a store doesn't advertise here, then let them know you would like to see their ad in Energy. Many dealers need to understand how many bonafide users read Energy regularly.

M3G



ABOUT M3G

Mid-Michigan Microcomputer Group (M3G) is a non-profit organization of computer hobbyists, enthusiasts, and users in the Lansing and Mid-Michigan area. Formed in 1975, M3G is the oldest personal computer organization in the area, and one of the pioneer organizations in the country. Membership in the club is open to anyone with an interest in personal computing.

MEETINGS

General Membership meetings are held each month, generally on the third Thursday of each month (barring scheduling problems), at 7:30 pm, at the East Lansing Public Library, 800 Abbott Road, East Lansing. Executive Committee meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm, at Beggars Banquet restaurant in East Lansing.

DUES

Annual dues for M3G are \$12.00, for 12 consecutive months. Family memberships (two or more people at the same address, receiving only one copy of the Newsletter) are available. The Master member pays full dues; additional family members joining at the same time each pay \$1.00 per year.

To join M3G, come to any meeting, or send one year's dues with your name and address to: M3G, c/o P.O. Box 1302, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

AFFILIATIONS

M3G is a member of the Midwest Affiliation of Computer Clubs (MACC), and of the Michigan Computer Consortium (MC2).

NEWSLETTER

M3G members receive ENERGY, published by the Michigan Computer Consortium, as a benefit of membership.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

M3G currently has four active Special Interest Groups: the Central Michigan TRS-80 Users Group (CMTUG) SIG, the CP/M SIG, the Heath/Zenith SIG, and the Osborne SIG. These SIGs hold additional meetings as their members desire, and may charge SIG dues in addition to M3G dues if the SIG so decides. SIG meetings are announced in the Meeting Calendar in ENERGY. Additional SIGs may be formed on any computer-related topic which M3G members may want.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President.....Warren Wolfe.....337-7672
Vice President.....(Vacant)
Secretary.....Dean Shipman.....355-6181
Treasurer.....Joe Werner.....337-7415

MACC Trustee.....Frank Dolinar.....351-1779
MC2 Delegate.....Joe Werner.....337-7415
CMTUG SIG Chairman.....Lee Hodges.....669-3258
CP/M SIG Chairman.....Greg Martin.....484-5850
Heath/Zenith SIG Chmn...Tom Trana
Osborne SIG Chairman....Larry Tirone.....484-3921

To join M3G, please fill out the following, enclose with your dues, and mail to M3G, c/o P.O. Box 1302, East Lansing, MI 48823, or come to a meeting.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE: _____, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ (home) _____ (office)

Dues:	() M3G	\$12.00
	() CMTUG SIG	(no additional dues)
	() CP/M SIG	(no additional dues)
	() Heath/Zenith SIG	(no additional dues)
	() Osborne SIG	\$ 2.00

TOTAL:

M3G

Warren Wolfe
President, M3G

Data Basics
2962 Horizon Drive
E. Lansing, Michigan 48823

The September meeting of M3G is Thursday, September 26, 1985 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Lansing Public Library. Non-members may attend the meeting. Unfortunately, library scheduling prevented us from obtaining our usual date, and the 26th is the same evening as the CP/M SIG meeting. I regret any inconvenience this may cause.

CYBERBIGOTRY

I would like to start by saying that I do not approve of bigotry. This includes bigotry that is based on age, sex (or lack of same), race, national origin, or religious convictions, no matter how absurd. The world has a large contingent of bigots, and they are entitled to their opinions. However, politeness dictates that they keep opinions that are offensive to the societal norms to themselves; the law demands that they not let their bigotry interfere in the work environment.

I would like to point out a case or two of a new category of bigotry, a category that has escaped national attention and media coverage. This is the dread cyberbigotry. The fact of its existence is not offensive; the pride that its adherents exhibit is.

Cyberbigotry has quite a few variants: the programmer who won't "dirty his mind" with anything that even resembles BASIC, almost any Macintosh owner sneering at owners of mere IBM PCs and (horrors) CP/M machines, the corporations for which nothing but Lotus Symphony will do, and individuals who have wired themselves so heavily into the project manager Artemis that they can barely speak English are just a few examples.

I can understand support of a particular product, and I can understand the feeling that a particular product is unsuited for a particular application. I can even understand the feeling that a particular product is unsuitable for any purpose. However, I cannot understand the (no other word applies) hatred that some people have for a select few products.

The cyberbigotry that is most frequently a factor in my life is the "Fear and Loathing of WordStar," all due apologies to Dr. Hunter S. Thompson. There must be some sort of hormone or pheromone buried in the code that MicroPro wrote; it seems to literally drive people wild. To this brand of cyberbigot, dBase is preferable to the more powerful KnowledgeMan because it has been around longer, and has "third party" add-on utilities to perform many of the functions that Ashton-Tate did not include. However, the exact same circumstances surrounding WordStar indicate some congenital defect in the package.

Honestly, I do not understand. WordStar is a remarkably powerful package, one with features that the majority of users will never use. I do not see this as a problem. Symphony is the same way; WordStar, however, will run in a mere 128 Kbyte system. There are publishing houses to which you can send the WordStar document for a book via modem, and receive a typeset copy of the book back via UPS in less than a week. Turbo Pascal, SideKick, and KnowledgeMan are just a few programs that have a need for text editing within the program. All of these programs (and others) use WordStar commands in text editing mode. Turbo Pascal actually implements more WordStar features than it documents; the WordStar standard ^T deletes a word in Turbo, although the manual doesn't make any claim that it will work.

The situation may have something to do with one of WordStar's primary benefits. Any word processor will eat massive quantities of documents in its "youth," and WordStar ate its share of verbiage. However, that was several years ago; if memory serves, WordStar was first released in 1979. It is a rock-stable product.

A friend of mine just switched to using WordStar, after using CP/M's ED and DOS's EDLIN. He works in a high-tech software production facility, and took a great deal of abuse for his archaic tastes in program editors. His co-workers all had the latest and greatest of text editors. And, once or twice a week, a great scream would issue from one of the cubicles as a brand-new and exciting word processing product ate somebody's program. He also watched some of the tykes become orphans, as the companies that wrote the software went out of business. Some of the guinea pigs ended up having to write little utility programs to convert their program texts into a format acceptable by another word processing program. Remember: you are not a paranoid if they really ARE after you! This gentleman trusts WordStar, and that is quite enough reassurance for me.

WordStar has been claimed to be (with justification) hard to learn. This is true if you try to slog through the manual and memorize every command. However, using WordStar as a "plain word-wrapping text editor" takes about ten minutes to learn on the IBM PC. When the fancy features are needed or wanted, they can be looked up, and, in the process, learned.

There seems to be a common confusion between being easy to learn and easy to use. Even granting that WordStar is not easy to learn, I claim that it is easy to use. If you know the commands, or have them in soft keys, or the function keys, you will never see the menus; WordStar brings up the menu only if you hesitate about three quarters of a second. If you are quicker than that, it simply does what you have told it to do. You can even set the level of help that you desire. Few things are a bigger hassle to me than taking my hands off the keyboard to move a mouse pointer to a pull-down menu, pointing to the correct selection, and clicking on that to save my work. A single function key does the same in WordStar.

Additionally, there may be some sort of subliminal effect from some three hundred word processing programs in the last six years claiming that they are "significantly better, friendlier, and more powerful than WordStar." Psychology is not one of my strong suits, however, so I think I'll leave that avenue for others.

The casual reader may have observed a bias in my own discussion. This is true; I learned word processing on WordStar, and like it very much. However, I feel that I can be objective in discussing it, and I recognize the deficiencies that it has (running footnotes, and double column page formatting are lacking, for instance). I have seen people purchase another word processor simply because of its footnoting prowess, only to find out that it has other, less pleasant "features" that make it unacceptable. It has not been possible to hide the flaws of WordStar for many years.

I still don't get it. Why do so many people HATE WordStar? Equal time will be given to cyberbigots for their replies.

THE USER

by Joe Werner

Phillip D. "Don" Estridge helped lead IBM kicking and screaming into the personal computer marketplace. As head of the Independent Business Unit charged with developing IBM's entry into Personal Computing, he developed a machine surprisingly out-of-character for IBM. It spoke ASCII (most IBM machines use the EBCDIC character code, which IBM developed), used 5.25 inch floppy diskettes (IBM still uses its "standard" 8 inch floppies in a lot of applications), used a commercially-available Intel processor (instead of using one of IBM's own proprietary-architecture chips), used a commercially-available Disk Operating System, and had an "open" architecture, with enough technical detail published at day one to allow independent manufacturers to build add-ons and add-ins. Furthermore, they marketed the IBM PC through a network of independent dealers, as well as IBM's corporate sales staffs.

IBM's tactics were surprisingly similar to those used by Apple with the very successful Apple II. Just as surprising was IBM's success. While the boys and girls in Big Blue Pinstripes might be able to sell anything to corporate America, the IBM PC has become a standard of the industry, in areas the IBM sales people could not touch. And while the IBM nameplate helped, the features of the machine had a great deal to do with the growth of the PC and compatibles.

Recently, the IBM PC has become a part of "mainstream" IBM, and Don Estridge was "reorganized" out of control of the PC development effort. However, no doubt IBM hoped to capitalize on Don Estridge's skills to develop new concepts.

Don Estridge was a passenger on Delta flight 191, which crashed outside Dallas-Fort Worth Airport this past August 2nd. His loss makes the industry poorer.

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We can't do them all at once, so we prioritize our list and do the most important first. But even as we work, we must add new items, delete old items, and combine others. All this affects our priorities. Our list needs to be reviewed and rearranged.

As we get closer to doing a listed item, we begin accumulating more information about it. Because there is little room on "the list" for notes; we make another list for that item.

Soon we have (too) many lists, and the whole system breaks down. We find that our highest priority item is to reorganize our lists. That doesn't seem very productive, but we have to do it.

HELP has arrived --- a program called MaxThink. It can help you with the three stages of organization:

Perception. This is where you recognize and collect your ideas. You write them down, in no particular order, and with (almost) no limit to the subject matter. You now have a list.

Processing. At this point, you analyze your random ideas and put them into different categories. You now have an outline.

Organization. Arrange each item of a group into its proper order, and add descriptive information about it. You now have a report.

With MaxThink, you can make a list or outline, and then alphabetize, sort, prioritize, group, delete, copy, move, or change items - individually or within a range. MaxThink has 5 ways to enter, 8 ways to move, 9 ways to group, 7 ways to reorganize and 8 ways to prioritize lists, outlines and text.

MaxThink runs a lot like Lotus 1-2-3. The commands are highlighted at the bottom of the screen; select a command by typing its first letter, or by moving the highlight to it and pressing ENTER. Refer to your data either by pointing your cursor, or by using a reference number. You can change your mind by just pressing Escape.

You control your output. Print it as an outline (down to whatever level you want), or as a report. Include or exclude the items and/or the descriptive information you added for each item. Change the outline format from Roman numerals, upper case letters, Arabic numerals, etc. to whatever arrangement you want for each level of the outline.

There are other things you may want to know. The product is easy to learn, in spite of its poor manual. The disk is copy protected, and must be in drive A when the program is loaded. In addition, we expect the manufacturer to provide free updates for the first year. We are pursuing a site license for this product.

MaxThink

\$ 59.95

MaxThink, Inc

230 Crocker Ave

Piedmont, CA 94610

System: IBM PC or compatible

Screen: Any

Memory: 192K or more

PC DOS: 2.0 or higher

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NOW THAT WE'RE ALL ASSEMBLED
by Joseph R. Power

The MODEM Protocol

[Editor's Note: Joe Power is a past President of M3G. He now works for Hewlett Packard in California. This article first appeared in the M3G Newsletter for August, 1982, and is reprinted here with slight editing. -- jww]

This article will deal with the topic of the file transfer protocol in Ward Christensen's MODEM program. Now before all you Apple, TRS-80, and Atari owners quickly flip to something else, take note that although MODEM is a CP/M based program, this article is especially for non-CP/M users. There are many Bulletin Boards out there which have files anyone can download for free, provided they obey the MODEM protocol. Many of these files are ASCII text files that are system independent. With the price of software so high, I should think most people would enjoy having the ability to obtain good programs at no cost (without resorting to piracy). So here's how 'they' do it.

The applicable definition of the word protocol is 'a code of diplomatic or military etiquette and precedence'. In computer parlance, protocol generally refers to a set of conventions to which both sides of an information transfer adhere. The two major reasons for using a protocol are increased reliability of information transfers and the ability of multiple devices to use the same channels of communication. In the case of the MODEM program, reliability was the key reason for coming up with the protocol used.

To ensure that a file is transferred reliably over potentially dirty phone lines with non-optimal modems, the program sends information that is not contained in the file being transferred, but, rather, commentary upon it. This includes block numbers, checksums, and responses to transfers. The protocol also specifies a maximum time allowed to transfer each character. The result is that it is hard to corrupt the information during the transfer.

Listed below in a pseudo-code format are the implementations of the protocol from the sender's and receiver's points of view. This is the bare bones skeleton of the MODEM program. With these, any system should be able to up- or down-load files on Remote CP/M (RCP/M) systems.

(* Send File Routine *)

```
get NAK (ASCII 15h) from receiver; timeout=80 seconds
block_number := 0
error := 0
REPEAT
```

```
  send SOH (ASCII 01h)
  send block_number
  send ones complement of block_number
  checksum := 0
  FOR all 128 characters in this block DO
  BEGIN
```

```
    send character
    checksum := ((checksum + character) AND 0FFh)
```

```
  END
  send checksum
  get ACK (ASCII 06h) from receiver; timeout = 10 seconds
  IF ACK not received THEN
```

```
  BEGIN
    error := error + 1
    IF error > 10
      THEN abort transfer
      ELSE decrement block_number
        to retransmit block
```

```
  END
  block_number := block_number + 1
UNTIL all blocks transferred successfully
REPEAT
```

```
  send EOT (ASCII 04h)
  get ACK from receiver; timeout = 10 seconds
UNTIL ACK received
END.
```

(* Receive File Routine *)

```
on any timeout goto [T]
error := 0
last_block := -1
when ready to receive blocks send NAK
  get character; timeout = 10 seconds
  IF character = EOT THEN GOTO [B]
  IF character <> SOH THEN GOTO [T]
  get block_number; timeout = 1 second
  get ones complement of block_number; timeout = 1 second
  IF block_number + complemented block_number <> 0FFh
    THEN GOTO [T]
  checksum := 0
  FOR all 128 characters DO
  BEGIN
```

```
    get character; timeout = 1 second
    checksum := ((checksum + character) AND 0FFh)
```

```
  END
  get sender_checksum; timeout = 1 second
  IF checksum <> sender_checksum THEN GOTO [T]
  send ACK
  error := 0
  IF block_number = last_block THEN GOTO [A]
  IF block_number <> last_block + 1 THEN abort transfer
  last_block := block_number
GOTO [A]
```


[B] send ACK
END.

[T] wait until no character received for 1 second
send NAK
error := error + 1
IF error > 10 THEN abort transfer
GOTO [A]

NOTES:

The block_number is a 1 byte binary number. The first block has the number 00h, the next 01h, and so on. In CP/M systems, it represents the actual sector number within the file being sent.

The character format (number of data bits, parity, etc.) is mutually agreed upon by both parties. If you need to transfer object code, you should communicate with 8 data bits, no parity. The usual format is 7 data bits, even parity. This will work quite well for regular ASCII text character files. [Over the last few years, the convention of 8 data bits, no parity, has become more common; it is the preferred mode for file transfers today.]

New versions of the MODEM protocol have an optional 16 bit CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check) in place of the 8 bit checksum described above. The CRC is more complicated to calculate, but gives better error-detection. Most RCP/M Systems will support both forms of checksum.



JOSEPH W. WERNER
Independent Systems Consultant

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East Lansing, MI 48823

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HOME, SWEET WORKPLACE

Ginny Werner

I have recently gotten back into the main stream of computer programming for fun and profit mostly for profit. I am now doing contracting work for the people who bought the product the people I used to work for made. Setting up to do contract work in my home has been interesting.

Sitting downstairs in what used to be my sewing room is the equipment that was supplied to me by the company I am contracting with. I now have a small card table sitting in the middle of the room. On it (and the sewing machine and the ironing board and a small stacking table) is spread the papers, listings, diskettes, etc. I find necessary to do my work. Someday I'm going to figure out how to organize all this stuff and rearrange the room so it is more convenient to use.

I am trying to get back into the swing of working in the morning instead of watching game shows. I am trying to figure out how I can make it up to four cats that one of their favorite places to be is now off limits. And I am trying to familiarize myself with Z80 assembler again.

However it is really amazing how quickly one can get back into things. About a week ago when I first looked at the listings they made about as much sense as my high school German book - the stuff was sort of recognizable but don't ask me what it really says. Now it reads sort of like a mystery novel - all the words make sense and I can understand a lot of it but I'm not quite sure how things are going to work out in the end.

Actually things are not going that badly. I've become reacquainted with the software and found some of the utilities I thought were gone for good. I even found a very useful new (to me) utility on volume 68 of the SIG/M diskettes. the program is DIF2 and it tell you what the differences between two files are. Great when you're trying to figure out what is in the new version of your source that wasn't in the old version.

I've also found there are some definite advantages to working at home. I can get in about a half hour to 45 minutes of work before breakfast (I am a morning person). I can get a drink or a snack whenever I want. And I can make myself a good hot lunch. Also, I can throw a tantrum when I get frustrated and only the cats will see my unprofessional behavior.

So far I've been contracting for two weeks and it hasn't been that bad. The biggest question I have is how soon will they pay me after I bill them?



ABOUT OUR ADVERTISERS

ENERGY wants to take this opportunity to recognize our advertisers. These are the people who make it possible for us to bring you a high-quality magazine each month at a low cost. These advertisers support your interests; please give them your support.

Computer Consignments is a new advertiser in **ENERGY**, and was acquired by a new owner a few months ago. Computer Consignments deals in used personal and small-business computer equipment, and new and used software and supplies. Check them out!

Demco Control Systems has been a long-time advertiser. Demco handles Hewlett-Packard computers, including the Touchscreen, Portable, and Integral PC, as well as the LaserJet and ThinkJet printers and HP Calculators (the standard of the industry). They have recently added the AT&T Personal Computer line.

Kruse Company is another long-time supporter. Kruse handles the Morrow line of personal computers, Gemini Star printers, and paper, diskettes, and other supplies. Kruse is open evenings and weekends. Pay them a visit.

Perry Computers is an old name in computers in this area. They are a Radio Shack franchise, but they also handle a number of other brands of computers at attractive prices. Perry is no more than 15 minutes from East Lansing, up temporary I-69, and well worth the trip!

Pro Video in Meridian Mall started out with video game software and expanded into computers and computer supplies. They now handle Commodore and Atari equipment, software, various printers and add-ons, paper, and supplies. Go out to Meridian Mall and pay them a visit.

TNT Computing is run by a CHAOS member who also helps put **ENERGY** together. TNT handles Atari add-ons, software, diskettes, paper, and other useful products, at favorable prices. For dynamite prices, give Mike a call.

Joseph W. Werner is a contract consultant and system implementor, specializing in computer communications. He is also a member of the **ENERGY** team and a regular contributor to **ENERGY**.

These advertisers deserve your support. When you are shopping for computer equipment, software, supplies, or service, be sure to contact them. And let them know you appreciate their ads in **ENERGY**.

If you know someone else who should be advertising in **ENERGY**, tell them about it. For further information, contact any member of the Editorial Board, listed on Page 4.

Also, be sure to check out our new Person-to-Person advertising. Members of Consortium clubs can place ads in **ENERGY** free for another month. Here's another way to get rid of that used equipment so you can buy the latest. And here's a way for others to find reasonably-priced used gear to enhance their computing.

UPCO Notes

by Skip Osterhus

Old business:

July meeting: July 23rd, 1985 at 7:30 p.m.

Place: Room 116 of Ag Engineering

Attendance: 75

Door prize: IBM Personal Editor

Winner: Owen Irvine

Speaker: Mr. John Dickinson from PC Magazine

Topic: Printers, how PC Magazine evaluates software/hardware and misc Q & A's.

DOM: None

EXCHANGE: July 1985

- 1) On July 31st, 1985 all UPCO members that do not have a password for the IBM Exchange BBS in Boca Raton, FL will have to dial 1-305-426-3227 and those with a password will call 1-800-426-3227.
- 2) Please pay attention to your address label on ENERGY. It will warn you of expired dues.
- 3) You still have a couple of issues to take out a free ad in ENERGY. Surely some of you must have something you want to sell (or did you unload it at the Inacomp tent sale?).
- 4) If you have any ideas for a club meeting please get in contact with one of the club officers. I am very interested in how the club can better serve the membership. I think it would be very nice if we could develop some special interest groups (SIGS) like some of the other clubs do. This could be a better way to get the PCjr or Tandy 1000/1200/2000 together as an example. If you have an idea for a SIG or would like to volunteer to start one please contact me. SIGS may be organized around other ideas as well as the hardware. We have several members interested in Turbo PASCAL, dBASE II/III, investing with micros, etc. and all of these would be ideal topics of interest.
- 5) Please be aware of some of the conventions I will be using in this column. Above I used 'DOM' to mean 'Disk Of the Month'. Check this out in 'Old business' to find out if one was available at the last meeting and in the 'New business' to find out if one is planned for the next meeting. The term 'EXCHANGE' refers to the monthly publication that IBM is now sending UPCO. The same rules (availability at the meetings) apply as the DOM.

New business:

September meeting: September 24th, 1985 at 7:30 p.m.

Place: Room 116 of Ag Engineering

Attendance: ?

Door prize: Surprise

Winner: ?

Speaker: Mr. Steve Melnyk from MSU

Topic: Graphics on the PC - demos of GEM Paint and PC Paintbrush, etc.

DOM: Yes

EXCHANGE: September 1985 expected

- 1) In upcoming months UPCO will feature a presentation of dBASE III versus RBASE 5000, how a local stockbroker makes use of his PC at work, and a live demonstration of the IBM network. All of these meetings promise to be really interesting so plan on being there! Look for more info on those meetings in this column.
- 2) Please note that this month we are starting a new column in ENERGY to let UPCO members know what the DOM will be before the meeting. We will try to make this a regular feature and welcome your feedback on this. Give credit to Dick Janson for doing the column.
- 3) If there is anybody who would like to volunteer to help with the publishing of ENERGY please contact me ASAP. We really could use someone to take care of advertising. Remember that ENERGY belongs to you. If the advertising brings in more money then the cost to each member can go down. Also please tell friends and vendors when you refer to ENERGY for an ad or an answer to question.
- 4) If you have recently paid your dues and did not get an UPCO card please see me at the meeting during the break and I will issue you a new one. This applies to members who renew their dues as well.
- 5) I have just acquired an AT with a 65MB hard disk and plan to let everybody know it is working out. Look for a column in a future issue of ENERGY. I also plan on reviewing a piece of software that will print cards, banners, newsletters, etc. in a future column.
- 6) I would like to read the ideas and thoughts from the rest of you! How about a submission for ENERGY?

S E P T E M B E R

D i s k o f t h e M o n t h

FREECALC Ver 1.0 1984

This is a spreadsheet. No competition for 1-2-3, it has 100 rows, 25 columns.

You can specify a cell to be alpha or numeric, and the program helps you to continue in your chosen mode. Alpha entry in each cell can be left or right justified, or centered, in the 10 position cell.

Calculations and formulas are easy, with these added functions included:

- Sum
- Minus
- Average
- Greatest Value
- Least Value
- Count

When entering these, you can enter the RowColumn cell references, or move your cursor to the cells.

FC can load & save files, blank a cell or worksheet, go to a cell, turn recalc on and off, and set the number of decimal places to be displayed on the worksheet.

It has one level of help, and can print all or part of the spreadsheet.

FREECALC comes with a 36 page manual and three demo worksheets on the disk. Its user supported; if you like it you are expected to send the author \$35 so he can continue to develop it.

FOGFIND

Feed this program your text and it will tell you what school grade should be able to read it. It checks only the first 100 sentences; if you can't understand them, you probably won't get to the rest! The program comes with a small, but adequate documentation file.

HAMURABI

You become the ruler of a small kingdom with land, people, grain, and rats. For ten years, you must choose how much grain to plant, store, and use for food. You can buy/sell land with grain, if you have enough. From time to time, a plague wipes out half of your people, and the rats aren't very nice either. How will you do?

BUGS

This is a fairly fast imitation of the Centipede arcade game. It needs a graphics board and screen to run.

POLYMAZE

This program creates mazes inside a circle. As you move around, you will get a full test of your hand-eye coordination. It does have a retrace feature to help you backtrack from a dead end. This game also needs a graphics board and screen to run.

Get our Disk of the Month from the librarian on a colored disk. First come, first served on colors. Each disk is \$5.00, and prior issues can be ordered. We also sell blank black and colored disks reasonable.

AUGUST

Disk of the Month

PC-FORM

Use this handy utility to design the format for, and run reports with data from your PC-FILE databases.

You'll see a list of your data files, then the description of the one you choose to use, with names and field sizes.

Put your fields wherever you want within 66 lines and 76 characters/line. Your form can be shorter.

Editing is line by line -- a bit crude, but workable. You can insert, modify, delete, and list lines of your layout.

You specify a field by number, like !3\, and you will see on the screen how much space it will take. You can make it shorter.

You can store your layout. Printing and form design are separate operations. You may select certain records to be printed, and you will see how many passed. Output can be to printer, screen, or disk file.

123PREP

Takes a fixed length file and splits it into fields readable by Lotus 1-2-3's 'File Import Numbers' command. Each field is indicated as being either a number or text.

CASTLE

The castle has many rooms on many levels. There are treasurers, monsters, and a magic wand.

As you enter a room, its floor plan is drawn for you, including doors, stairs, furniture, and other things.

You move about with the arrow keys, and can type in commands to learn more about where you are.

Instructions are included.

STORY

This BASIC program wants to tell stories, but it needs your help. It wants to know some nouns, verbs, and other important words.

It uses these raw ingredients to put together some fun in the form of a newspaper ad, a western, a story about the army, or a waterbed. This is good fun for kids of all ages.

FROG

This looks a lot like the arcade game called Frogger. The idea is to get one of four frogs across a busy road, then across a stream with logs. The game is fast. It requires a graphics board and screen to run.

Get our Disk of the Month from the librarian on a colored disk. First come, first served on colors. Each disk is \$5.00, and prior issues can be ordered. We also sell blank black and colored disks reasonable.

MICRO scope

LaserJet Printer

Focus on Hardware

--- What can it do ?

"MICRO scope" originals are printed on our LaserJet printer. It is the quickest and quietest printer we have. It is also the most expensive.

WHY DID WE GET IT? We bought the LaserJet as a research project. It is a new technology we thought we should know something about. We compared it to the NEC Spinwriter printers installed in Field Comm sites, and found the price to be comparable. We also wanted to evaluate it as a printer to be shared among the users of more than one computer.

So what did we find out?

REGULAR PAPER The LaserJet has a cartridge that holds about 100 sheets of standard-sized paper. As an option, you may command it to accept manually-fed envelopes, one at a time.

NO RIBBON Rather than ribbons, this printer uses a toner cartridge. (Its parents make the Canon copier.) The quality is consistent; it doesn't start dark and finish light like printers that use a fabric ribbon. The cost is less than three cents a copy, even though the cartridge costs about \$100.

QUICK The LaserJet can print eight pages a minute, but not all computer programs are able to go that fast. And even at top speed, it is so quiet you can confidently whisper into a nearby telephone.

VERSATILE Most letter-quality printers have removable print elements such as a golf-ball, thimbles, or daisy-wheels. The LaserJet has font cartridges to supplement the built-in Courier fonts. A single cartridge lets it print several styles without having to change elements. The LaserJet prints various combinations of:

- proportional or fixed spacing
- regular or italics
- light, regular or bold
- Courier, Times Roman, Helvetica, pica, elite, line printer

The cartridge we use for MICRO scope lets us use different styles on the same document:

Times Roman 10pt Regular **Bold** *Italic*
super-script sub-script

Helvetica 14pt Bold

Times Roman 8pt Regular

SPREADSHEETS The LaserJet can print in a font called "line printer". It will print a normal 10 characters per inch, or a compressed 16.67 characters per inch. And we can have the print oriented either horizontally or vertically on a regular sheet of paper. It normally prints 6 lines per inch, but can also do any of these: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 16, 24, or 48 lines per inch.

SERIAL PORT You will need a serial port to use the LaserJet printer. (Most other printers use a parallel port.) This hookup has a number of advantages. You can locate your printer more than eight feet from your computer; fifty to a hundred feet is possible. You can also keep another (parallel) printer connected, and switch back and forth at the DOS prompt.

SO WHY NOT?

Price For the same money, you can buy two or three NEC P2 Pinwriters, or six Epson RX-80s. At a \$3,500 list price, this printer is not for everyone.

Graphics If you need graphics printed, this printer is not for you. Hewlett-Packard is working on it, and an upgrade may be available in six months, but it doesn't do a very good graphics job now. If you need graphics, stick with a dot matrix printer.

Page size You can't print from one edge of the paper to the other. About a quarter inch on each edge is unprintable, permitting *only 62 lines per page* and about 80 characters per line. However, a legal-sized paper tray is an available option.

Columnar reports Some fonts use fixed spacing, others use proportional spacing. Fonts that only support proportional spacing are awkward for printing data in *columns*.

THE FUTURE The LaserJet is only the first in what will be a growing number of laser printers. Newer ones will go faster and have more features, and initially cost more. For now, the LaserJet is a fine first effort!

SPECIFICATIONS LIST

Hewlett-Packard LaserJet printer	\$3,500
----------------------------------	---------

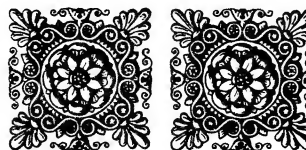
Measurements: 18.5" W
16.2" D
11.4" H

Weight: 71 lbs.

Power: normal 120V electrical outlet

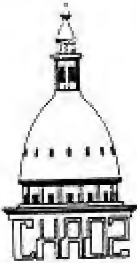
Toner/drum cartridge - approx 3000 copies \$ 99

Font cartridges - supplement built-in font \$250 - \$350



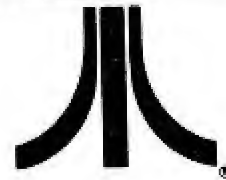
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CHAOS



C.H.A.O.S. WELCOMES YOU
TO THE WORLD OF THE

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CAPITOL HILL ATARI OWNERS' SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Leo Sell

Well..., summer is drifting away. We have missed many of you this summer. But now the busy summer and vacation time is over. It is time to get involved. Your club needs you and your involvement. An organization like ours needs members contributing an hour or two each month. And not just the same people. We need fresh faces and ideas all of the time. Because of new people and ideas, some things in the club have become very exciting. We have fresh ideas and excitement expressly in two areas now. Our CHAOS Bulletin Board System has gotten bigger and better than ever. I believe it is now one of the best in the country. Thanks to John Nagy for his contribution of time and effort as our Sysop. The other area is the CHAOS Library. Over the summer, Rodney Shelton has gradually taken over the library from Guy Hurt. As of September, Rodney is officially our Chaos Librarian. Already he has instituted changes to improve accessibility and has expressed several more fine ideas to better serve the members and the club.

This brings to mind that great thanks is in order. On behalf of CHAOS and its members and myself, I would like to thank Guy Hurt for all of his efforts, time and energy as our long time Librarian. Guy has served as librarian for longer than I have been a member. His dedication to this area of the club should be an inspiration to everyone in the club. Guy will continue to help out for the time being by reviewing submissions to the library and by continuing to do the fine demonstrations of programs from the library. Once again thank you Guy for your help and your dedication. Without your efforts our library would indeed be the poorer.

The bywords for this year are INVOLVEMENT and RECRUITMENT. We really want to see our members get involved in various areas of the club. We need people to give as well as take. We need several critical jobs filled, and we would like to see some other things such as a Basic Special Interest Group, or a Beginners SIG or an Advanced User's/Programmer's SIG that would relate to things such as CP/M, Action programming or other languages such as C and Assembler. We hope to see such groups and others started. But we need people to host and organize them. We don't necessarily need someone to lead, that will often take care of itself. If you are interested in one of these areas, why not volunteer to host it. Think of some way you could contribute to the club. CHAOS is only as

good as its member involvement. Contribute an hour to helping with the newsletter, or a couple hours a month to Membership Coordination. Jump in and help. You'll get more out of the club and the club will gain too.

The other area of emphasis needs to be recruitment. The larger our membership base the more activities and opportunities we can have. If we were to grow to 500 or more for instance, we could possibly get people from major software companies to demo their products. Or perhaps we would have that same thing from Atari itself. Many of us know Atari users who are not members. Some of us know of former members who are no longer involved. Talk to them, tell them about CHAOS and urge them to get involved. They, and the club, will be richer for it. We are a flexible, living, growing organization. We will change to meet the needs and interests of our members. But the members must get involved and they must communicate.

See you at the meeting. Looking forward to an exciting fall and winter.

MUSINGS... by Leo Sell

How was your summer. My family and I certainly stayed busy. I know a lot of people did the same and therefore reduced their Atari and their CHAOS involvement. Welcome Back!!

Are you interested in Basic? How about Logo, or C, or Action. What about just the rudiments of Atari use. If so...VOLUNTEER. In order to have interest groups, someone has to volunteer to host it. Chances are, if you are interested, so are several other people. Let me know of your interest and willingness to help and the club will lend a hand.

Are you aware that you can place mail orders for CHAOS Library disks. Are you aware that it is our policy to provide you a free copy of a disk if you contribute an original program or one from a source other than Antic or Analog, (properly attributed of course.) See Rodney for more information.

Another point of interest is that we now have a text section on the CHAOS BBS. You can read several interesting articles from various sources. You can also contribute articles. In fact, the upload function now supports three levels of uploads. Sysop only, high level (officers and such) and open to all. By uploading a file to the high level, you can now contribute to the Newsletter via the

CHAOS

MUSINGS Continued

BBS. This will make it easier than ever and will also give you fewer excuses for not contributing. The BBS is rapidly becoming an invaluable aid to communication with and between CHAOS officers. Four of the five officers have modems and should be logging on at least once a week. If you have a modem you can easily let your concerns and suggestions be known. With the higher level of upload/download access, you can send a text file up for the officers or the newsletter. We hope to see a lot of such involvement.

Remember our bywords are INVOLVEMENT and RECRUITMENT. See you soon.

ATARI 520 ST COMPUTER

Product Review by Brian Goluska

At the July 20, 1985 CHAOS meeting we showed an Atari 520 ST. Two ST's were delivered to club members July 17. These were ordered through Atari's special early delivery offer to clubs. Both machines worked 100 % out of the box. Cost was \$800 each.

Atari 520 ST as delivered:

- Half a Megabyte RAM
- 68000 Processor
- 94 Key Keyboard
- Serial Port and Parallel Port
- Monochrome and Color Video Outputs
(NOTE: NO TV INTERFACE)
- Floppy and Hard Disk Interfaces
- Midi In and Midi Out
- Cartridge Socket
- 2 Joystick Ports (1 for mouse)
- 1 Mouse

Atari SF 354 3 1/2 " Floppy Drive
-Single Sided, 357 K Bytes Formatted

Atari SM 124 Monochrome Monitor
-640 x 400 Resolution

TOS (GEM) Operating System Disk
LOGO Programming Language Disk
2 Manuals, 1 for 520 ST, 1 LOGO

Impressions:

The 520 ST, as predicted, uses GEM style drop down menus. The operating system is 220 K bytes on disk. While using the menus is at first disconcerting, after an hour it seems natural. The mouse is an absolute

necessity, because the arrow key alternative is awkward.

Monitor quality and resolution are excellent. "Paper white" and black.

LOGO is interesting, but not thrilling. For drawing circles, squares, and shapes it easily makes demos. Hopefully BASIC and/or C will be available soon.

The monitor has a "monochrome detect" which apparently doesn't allow colors to be set in the software, and the writer doesn't have an analog color monitor available. Likewise, the software supports screen graphics copy to printer, but I haven't tried it yet, for lack of a suitable cable. The copy of screen (.PIC) files to disk works well, however.

In conclusion, it is exciting to have a truly new product with the Atari label. Hopefully more software and documentation will be available.

Bugs in the 520ST -- Part 1
by Ralph Fellows

Atari's 520ST is a fascinating machine, and a real bargain at the price. But the software that comes with it has a few problems...

(1) If you select "Print Screen" on the "Options" pull-down menu, you'd better have a printer attached. Otherwise, the mouse arrow turns into the busy-bee symbol and the whole system locks up. The only way to get back control is to reset the machine.

(2) In Logo, be careful when typing numbers with decimal points. Numbers with just a few digits work okay, but numbers with lots of digits both before and after the decimal point cause severe symptoms. To see an example, bring up Logo. When you get the first question-mark prompt, type a number with twelve or more digits before the decimal point and twelve or more digits after the decimal point; then hit return. Two or three mushroom-cloud symbols appear at the left edge of the screen for half a second or so, and the system collapses back to the window showing the files on the Logo disk. But the mouse and pull-down menus don't work any more -- the operating system has been blitzed somehow. Again, the only solution is to reset the machine.

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Atari Back in Computer Stores?

By Jon A. Bell
 April 15, 1985

Jack Tramiel has been widely quoted as saying that he would sell Atari computers "to anyone who buys them." It has been assumed that he would sell both the 8-bit XEs and 16-bit STs through mass marketing outlets.

However, a recent statement by James Copland, Director of Marketing for Atari Corp. may indicate that Atari will use its powerful ST computers to get back into the good graces of computer stores. According to Copland, "hundreds of dealers" have ordered the ST, although the names of specific outlets have not been released.

However, some dealers remain skeptical. A few have suggested that Atari might be using computer stores as a testing ground for the STs, then might change over to mass marketing channels. There are good points and bad points for selling a computer in either fashion, but you can't have it both ways. Here's why.

Both Commodore under Tramiel and Atari before Tramiel started out selling their computers through direct retail, i.e. computer stores. You could walk into a computer store

and see Atari 400s and 800s next to Vic 20s, Commodore 64s and Apple IIs. In exchange for their (small) monopoly on personal computers, a computer store could offer service, software and a meeting place for other computer enthusiasts such as yourself.

Then Atari and Commodore switched to mass merchandisers, gaining a vastly increased marketing base. By going through stores like K-Mart, Sears and Toys 'R Us (!?), both Atari and Commodore sold many more machines than they could have sold through dedicated computer stores. (And for those stores which tried hard to educate a potential buyer, dedicated has more than one meaning.) However, if a computer store still wants to sell my computer, said both Atari and Commodore, let them.

Unfortunately, there are inherent side effects to the question of retailer vs. mass marketer. As the computer companies see it, it's

actually small sales vs. large sales. Last time I checked, most American companies enjoy taking home a little something in exchange for their services . . . like profits. However, people who run computer stores also like taking something home to provide creature comforts for themselves and their families. Fact: if you can't make money selling something (in a business), then you should sell something else.

-- And the computer stores dropped Atari and Commodore computers as if they were radioactive.

It's impossible for any computer store to continue selling a product when a mass marketer (with boffo bucks) can stock the same product and still make a profit selling it cheaper than said computer store. Why should I spend the money at this computer store, a consumer may ask, when I can get the same thing at Freddy Fruegle's Discount Barn for 20 bucks less? (Or 30, or 50, or whatever.)

Ahah, but when the lowly Commodore 64 buyer needs help with his computer, where does he go? I can't tell you how much the employees of a computer store enjoy it when a guy walks in and says, "Uh, I didn't buy this here," holding up, say, a Commodore disk drive, "but I was wondering if you could help me with it. I tried loading a program, but since then I've gotten married, raised kids, sent 'um off to college and got a divorce, and the darn thing's still loading . . ."

For the long-term benefits of the computer-using consumer, I hope that Atari can convince computer stores to carry the ST, and for both of them to make a profit. The computer stores should be happy selling an inexpensive but powerful product, and they can provide greater support for their customers than some talking giraffe from Toys 'R Us.

XM301 MODEM COMING...

(8/4/85)

The XM301 modem is scheduled for imminent release. This near-pocket-sized modem plugs into the serial bus and into a phone line. It include auto-dial and auto-answer, and it plays the telephone audio through your TV speaker so yo can hear a busy signal or wrong number (the audio is turned off when you get a carrier).

This modem includes a brand new terminal program on disk called "XETERM", written by HomePak author Russ Wetmore. This program suprts X-modem and CompuServe A protocol for uploads and downloads.

Also included are a variety of bonuses for free time on systems like CompuServe, The Source, Delphi, Dow Jones, and others. More free time is included than the total cost of the modem!

The XM301 modem is expected to retail for well under \$50. Look for it in the early Fall.

--->Neil

CHAOS

This file was acquired from the
ATARI CORP BBS (408)-745-5308

ATARI CORP. NEWS

(August 4, 1985)

Atari Corp. has passed its first birthday. If we may be so immodest, here is a look at the past year's milestones:

Jan-Jun, 1984...Atari, Inc., loses several hundred million dollars.

July 2, 1984...Atari Corp. founded on assets of Atari Inc., purchased from Warner Communications Inc., by Jack Tramiel and associates.

Jul-Sep, 1984...2500+ employees laid off as Atari gets realistic. Facing a major downturn in the overall computer market, Atari prepares to launch the Computers That Couldn't Be Done.

Oct-Dec, 1984...a cloak of secrecy descends over Atari Corp. There is wild speculation in the press -- Commodore inciders saying Jack is out of cash (how would THEY know???), and lots of rumors. Was it really a corporate strategy to clam up and get free publicity...?

Jan, 1985...The Unveiling of the 1985 Atari lines. The 130XE as the enhancement to the 8-bit line confirming Atari's link with its current base, and the all-new ST line with price and performance that were unbelievable. One engineering newspaperman went so far as to trace the wires -- he was told by an "unnamed competitor" that there was really a VAX running the show from the back room. Atari Explorer magazine debuts with full coverage of new product lines.

April, 1985...130XE ships. Atari

wows dealers at Comdex and in Toronto. Dave Duberman joins Atari to head "User Group Support".

June, 1985...CES -- we were there after all, with the ST RAMDISK encyclopedia. Yet they still scoff. July, 1985...ST ships. The product has gone from idea to final product in a year -- while certain "competitors" have yet to see release after much longer times. Atari Corp. adds Sig Schreyer, Don Thompson, and 19 rep firms to get sales going in fall.

The next milestone? Well, I suppose that we'll be awaiting the flood of ST software this fall, and looking eagerly at the Xmas sales figures and at the announcements in next January's CES (what about that 32-bit add-on box?). Time will tell -- but it looks awfully good for Atari again.

News from Batteries Included!

Reprinted
From
Madison Area
Atari User Group

A public statement from Batteries Included Regarding our 80 column card for the Atari. It's always easy and enjoyable to announce good news, but seldom much fun to announce the bad. A Vice President of Development for Batteries Included, it's been a pleasure over the past year to introduce and bring to market such products as HomePak, PaperClip and B/GRAPH for the Atari. Unfortunately, I now have the unhappy task of having to tell you about the cancellation of our BI-80, 80 column display adaptor cartridge for XL and XE systems. Rather than simply making an announcement and leaving it at that--many companies cancel products without a word, we have decided that we owe the Atari community an explanation why this decision was made. It may not comfort those who really wanted the product and were waiting with some anticipation, but it might give some insight into why these things happen and the kinds of choices and decisions that are made in this industry.

BI created and marketed the most popular 80 column adaptor for the C64. About a year ago, when we committed to the Atari market we decided to create an Atari BI-80 as well. We contracted with a well recommended, experienced designer but the design was never completed to our satisfaction. About six months ago our own senior engineer came up with an innovative, high quality, yet inexpensive design. It used a special custom VLSI chip. We announced it and demonstrated several prototypes at Summer CES. As well, we had several programming teams working on software. The

cornerstone of the BI-80 was its custom chip. The manufacturer promised delivery within 8 weeks of an order. Recently we placed our firm order, with the intention of shipping in September. Much to our dismay, we have just learned that we will not be able to get our first production chips until January 1986. This is essentially why the BI-80 project has been cancelled. Without being able to sell this product in the important fall and Xmas markets, the financial risks --well over a quarter million dollars-- are unjustified. Late winter is the worst time of the year in this business to launch a new product. Also we are ready to introduce updates of HomePak and PaperClip this fall. What to do? Postpone them till spring? Release versions without the BI-80 support and then again when its ready? These were just some of the considerations. In the end, our research showed that it would not be possible for us to bring the product to market. If you've been waiting for it, we can only say, we are sincerely sorry, we really wanted the Atari BI-80 to happen as well. Finally, we want to be sure that all Atari owners and enthusiasts know that we at Batteries Included are still committed to the Atari software marketplace and will continue to create and publish our finest software for both the Atari XL/XE and ST markets. Between now and next spring we intend to bring to market upgraded editions of both Homepak and PaperClip. Low cost upgrades for registered owners will be made available. For the exciting new 68000 based ST's we plan on publishing not less than seven first class original programs during the coming nine months. These include; a magnificent new version of HomePak from Russ Wetaore; a powerful drawing and graphics program (from a famous author I can't name just yet), and another unique program that I can't give details on right now, but is going to thrill a lot of people.

This file was acquired from the
ATARI CORP BBS (408)-745-5308

ST PRODUCT NEWS

(8/2/85)

The first shipments of Atari 520ST systems were sent on July 8, 1985. Within two weeks, systems had arrived at 5 major distributors and 30 user groups (who ordered 180 systems under the user-group-direct offer.

The 520ST sells for \$799.95 at retail and consists of the following package:

520ST Computer
SF354 Single-sided 360K Drive
SM124 Monochrome Monitor

The 520ST computer package includes the TOS and Logo diskettes, the ST 2-button mouse, and manuals. Once BASIC is released (by the end of August), it will be added to the package and made available to all prior purchasers of ST systems.

The 520ST currently contains 512K (512 x 1024, or 524,288 bytes) of RAM. There is currently 16K of boot-up ROM. This Fall will see the release of TOS on ROM. At that time, the ROM will be upgraded to 192K, freeing up this amount of RAM for programs and data. The ROM will be included in 520ST's at that time and offered at a nominal price to current ST owners as a dealer or service center upgrade.

The 520ST system hardware includes interfaces and ports for:

- 128K of ROM
- 2 Floppy disk drives
- 8 high-speed devices (hard disk, CD ROM, co-processors)
- Centronics-style parallel printer
- RS232 device (modem or printer)
- High-res monochrome monitor
- RGB Analog color monitor
- Audio
- Synch in and out
- MIDI in, out, and through
- 2 Joysticks or 1 joystick and 1 mouse

The ST internally is based around a Motorola 68000 chip, the same as the Macintosh. The ST's 68000 runs at a full 8 megahertz.

Other chips inside the ST include:

- Video shifter custom chip
- DMA custom chip
- "Blue" custom chip
- Memory management custom chip
- General Instruments 3-voice sound
- Floppy disk controller chip
- Serial I/O chip
- Hitachi microprocessor for kbd

The video shifter (which handles all video output) and the 68000 chips work in close synch with each other when accessing the system's RAM. This results in the complete freedom of the 68000 to run at full speed without "cycle stealing" by the video section.

Future products for the ST line include:

- SF315 double-sided floppy (\$250)
- 10-megabyte hard disk (\$699)
- SC1224 RGB color 12" monitor (\$399)
- Atari Drawing Program
- Atari Forth
- "Star Raiders II" (?)
- Maba systems - checkbook minder, MabaDex, MabaWord, hard disk, more.
- Activenture CD ROM
- Infocom adventure games (all finished!)
- Sundog from FTL strategy space adventure
- GENWrite, GENDraw, and GENPaint from Digital Research
- "The Professional" from VIP -- a 1-2-3 workalike
- Hippo C
- Valdocs and Valdraw from Rising Star
- 4xForth from The Dragon Group
- DB Master from Stoneware
- "The Twin" from Mosaic -- another 1-2-3 clone
- Gato from Spectrum Holobyte
- Flight Simulator from SubLogic (awesome)

Check out the skull-and-crossbones BBS for lots of good ST info at (415) 552-8924.

--->Neil Harris

ATARI XE NEWS

(August 4, 1985)

The biggest story for the 8-bit line was April's release of the 130XE. This was the most powerful Atari computer released yet, although its debut was somewhat overshadowed by Atari's splashy new ST computer line. And, at \$149.95 (suggested list price), this is the most affordable Atari computer ever launched.

The 130XE is fully compatible with the 800XL. It features an additional 64K of RAM, which is controlled through 4 bits in the PIA chip. Two of the bits choose which of the four 16K sections of extra RAM is used. The other two bits activate and deactivate extra RAM for the 6502 cpu chip and for the video processor. This could lead to advanced video games where a bank of memory is exclusively devoted to the graphics.

The new DOS 2.5 was released at the same time as the 130XE. DOS 2.5 was designed to give the same extra storage as DOS 3 while keeping the ease of use and compatibility to DOS 2.

In addition, the DOS 2.5 includes a file called RANDISK.COM. When a 130XE boots DOS 2.5, the extra 64K is configured as a 499-sector RANDISK. The DOS menu program loads instantly and MEM.SAV's happen automatically too. Downloading into a RANDISK can sure cut down on connect charges and phone bills -- just dump to the "slow" disk AFTER hanging up!

Software is expected to come along to take advantage of the extra memory. AtariWriter Plus (coming any day now folks) has two versions on the same disk -- one for the 130XE and the other for lower-RAM computers. We hear that SynFile+ will also be upgraded to perform MUCH BETTER thanks to the extra RAM. PaperClip is also reputed to be on its way in a 130XE-enhanced version.

--->Neil



SPELL PERFECT

Reviewed by
Martin A. Siml

LJK software has brought us another winner in their "Perfect" series of software. The series being Letter Perfect, Data Perfect, and now Spell Perfect, which are all capable of working with each other.

The software comes in a loose leaf notebook with extensive instructions. The software is on two disks. One side of disk one is Spell Perfect for the normal 40 column Atari, the other side contains a version for the 80 column enhanced Atari. The second disk contains a dictionary in double density on one side and the same dictionary in single density on the other.

They give you the capability to back up any of the series software with this offering, which was not previously offered. In fact they very strongly suggest that all software be backed

up and the originals not be used.

The program can be used to check the spelling of words in a Letter Perfect file. The software is easiest used in a double disk set up, but can also be used with much disk switching in a single drive configuration. The program incidentally gives you a word count of the file, and how many different words are contained in the file. It also tells you how many words where compared with the dictionary, and how many did not match anything in the Dictionary. It shows you which words may be mis-spelled and allows you to make corrections. It will also show you a list of words which sound the same if requested.

The program allows for addition of words to the Dictionary. It also allows for more than one Dictionary disk. If you possess Letter Perfect, and have spelling problems, as I do this would be a great addition to your library. It compliments Letter Perfect nicely. Now if they could only come up with a program to correct my punctuation.

FROM MARK CANTRELL



"... AND THAT'S THE LAST TIME I AGREE
TO GO OUT FOR "A LITTLE DRIVE" WITH YOU!"

CHAOS



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ANTIC ON-LINE SPECIAL BULLETIN

Summer Consumer Electronics Show
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Tuesday, June 4, 1985
by Michael Ciruolo

Chicago, IL -- As companies debut new products for the Christmas buying season, there is enthusiastic interest in developing for both the new and old Atari computers. First the new:

The complete line of Infocom text adventure games will be available with the 16-bit Ataris.

Batteries Included announced a major commitment to the ST machines with their "IS" integrated software based on the GEM environment. According to Michael Reichmann, the company's director of product development, the entire line will work at an intuitive level, so that users will not have to memorize any commands.

According to the early announcement, the IS line will include a word processor with a built-in spelling checker, a combined spreadsheet and graphics package, a database manager, and a stock portfolio manager. The screen structure and layout are the same for all programs.

All programs in the IS series will be released for the Atari STs and the IBM PC and compatible market. The first program, "Portfolio", will be available for the STs shortly after September 1, according to Batteries Included.

The Software Publisher Sierra On-Line will market the submarine simulation game GATO for the STs. GATO puts the player in the role of a World War II submarine commander, searching out and attempting to destroy the Japanese Imperial Fleet.

Sierra president Ken Williams said "We want to see exactly how large these two new markets are. We figure the best way to test the unknown waters is to publish a

proven product (already out on the IBM, Macintosh and Apple 128K) with a broad appeal for maximum market penetration."

The flight simulator producers SubLogic said they would produce a simulator called Jet, and Electronic Arts is expected to release a financial cookbook, both products for the STs.

FTL Software, producers of the Apple II game Sundog, Frozen Legacy, are converting the game over to the Atari STs. The game won Family Computing's award for hybrid games last year--it is a role-playing economic simulation space adventure.

Many of these products were simply announced, with no date or price specified.

Several products for the 8-bit line of computers, including the 130XE, were also announced.

Batteries Included, producers of PaperClip, announced an 80-column display, the "BI-80", for Atari 400/800, XL and XE computers.

The BI-80 plugs into the Atari cartridge slot and requires extremely little special programming or software switching to use.

The cartridge is expected to cost about \$85.

Developers said the BI-80 produces a clean, crisp display ideal for writing professional-quality documents. Paperclip will be the first software package released for the Atari BI-80. There was a functioning version of 80-column Atari Paperclip shown at their booth.

According to John Skruch, product manager for the XE line, demand for the new 8-bit computers is so high he can't keep machines on warehouse shelves for over 18 hours.

The new XE products Skruch mentioned include programs from First Star Software, Synapse Software, and Adventure International.

Atari is also getting ready to release AtariWriter Plus, currently in final testing, a home productivity package called Silent Butler, and a proofreading program.

Skruch said this fall will also see the release of a planetarium program for the XEs that includes over 17000 plotted stars. The program will let users move through time, choose viewing angles, see constellations, track Halley's comet, and so on.

The programs sought by Atari Corp. continue to be application and education software, not games. "Atari Incorporated was a video game company that happened to make computers. We're a computer company that happens to make video games," Skruch said. "There aren't enough applications for the Atari."

Skruch also said his company has not released any 65XEs yet, as the nearly identical 800XLs are still available. When the last 800XLs are sold, Atari will start producing the 65XE.

"But at the price, the 130XE is still the machine of choice," Skruch said.

CCUG

GREATER LANSING
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USER'S GROUP



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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Terry Feichtenbiner

This President's report is taken from notes of both the July and August Greater Lansing Color Computer Users Group meetings.

The biggest scoop is that we have two new officers. In July it was made known that Librarian and VP/Program, Randy King, would no longer be able to serve the membership in those offices. In a time when we had trouble getting people to volunteer for an office, Randy accepted two of them. Randy has done a great job and everyone was sorry to see him step down.

Malcolm Cleveland volunteered and was elected to serve as Librarian. Malcolm is a veteran of the Atari group and attends almost every Color Computer Users Group meeting. As a plus for his office, Malcolm brings his computer to most meetings (even if it's not working). Malcolm has official custody of our public domain software collection. This includes Rainbow On Tape (a tape magazine), Teleterm (modem communication software) and a great icon-driven graphics editor. We have some good material and we're always looking for more. Bring diskettes or blank tape and recorder to the next meeting, and let Malcolm show off our collection.

Dale Knepper allowed us to talk him into the position of Vice President for Program. Dale has been a member of our group for some time, and I've been trying to get him more involved ever since he joined. Dale gets plenty of keyboard practice as the operator of his church's computerised recordkeeping system. The VP/Program doesn't have much to do in a business meeting, but that office is the most important with respect to attracting new members and retaining everyone's interest in our user's group. The VP/Program's task is to coordinate the efforts of all of us to provide interesting demonstrations and presentations for our monthly meetings. If you have an idea in mind (a guest speaker, hardware or software demonstration or a discussion topic), talk to Dale about it. He will help set it up so that we can all enjoy the fruits of your suggestion.

I'll put my Michigan Computer Consortium hat on next and give you the highlights of our recent board meetings. Everyone has noticed that the last issue of ENERGY spanned July and August. Due to some editorial problems, the board decided to omit the July issue from our publication schedule. The bad news is that you missed your monthly dose of ENERGY; the good news is that the user's groups were not charged for that month. More good news is that some changes have been made to reduce the chance of skipping future issues and to make our monthly distribution in a more timely manner.

The Consortium board has one very pressing need. More person-power is required to meet our deadlines and improve our services. No special skills are required, only a LITTLE free time and an interest in the 'electronic community'. Contact me (Terry Feichtenbiner 371-1594) or any MC² board member to volunteer.

The next CCUG meetings are scheduled for September 7 and October 5 at 1:00 PM in the East Lansing public library. Guests are always welcome. Members, don't forget to bring your equipment. See you there.

Person to Person

The cost for person-to-person advertising in ENERGY is five dollars (\$5.00) per ad, with a limit of fifty (50) words per ad. Don't forget to include system requirements in the case of software and peripherals. Ad copy may be submitted to any Editorial Board member or sent to: MC², P.O. Box 1832, East Lansing, MI 48823. Copy deadline is the 18th of the month preceding publication.

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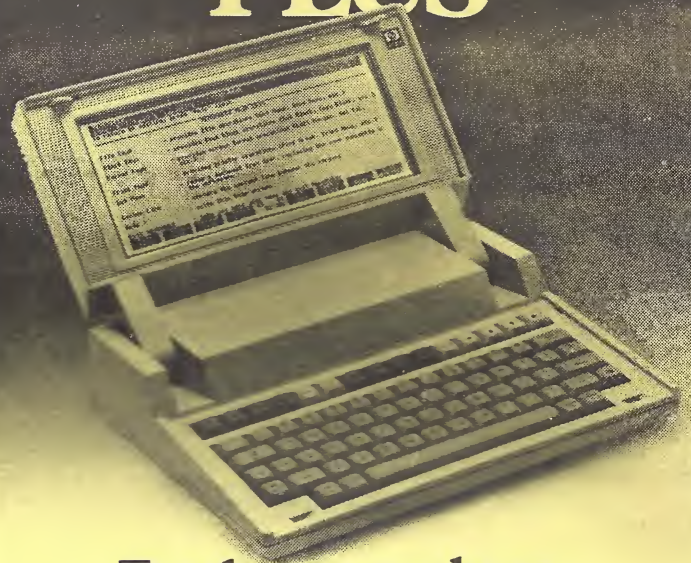
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